

refuse to use it in the way God intended. They are living for themselves and know it is wrong, and are unspeakably miserable on that account, but cannot bring themselves to live otherwise. The most happy people in the world are those who devote their talents, whether great or small, to some good use. This is an infallible receipt for happiness. Let any unhappy man begin at once to do all the good he can, in every way he can, to as many of his fellow-men as he can, and his heart will begin at once to sing for joy.

NOT REASONABLE

C. H. WETHERBE

There are very many people who base their hope of finally entering Heaven on the assumed reason that God's mercy is so great and his love is so deep and wide that he will everlastingly save all men. They say that it is not reasonable that God would permit any soul to be eternally doomed to perdition, because all souls are created in his likeness; and, besides, if this were not enough, there is another great consideration, which is that Christ died for all mankind; and if Christ died for all, then all must be saved. Such reasoning is so plausible that a large number of people trust in it and base their hope for the future on it. But here is another line of reasoning. In God's great goodness he has devised a scheme of salvation which provides that whosoever will may avail himself of its advantages and be saved. Christ has indeed died for all men, as a provisional remedy for the rescue of all sinners. Without his death no one could be saved. Everybody is urged to accept Christ as his sole Savior, but there are thousands who will not do so. These have been told by God's word that they will eternally perish if they do not accept Christ as their own Savior. They refuse to heed the warning and they keep right on in their wicked ways, cursing God and scorning Christianity. Now, is it reasonable to suppose that such ones, when they shall die, will be placed on an equal footing with those who have fled to Christ for pardon, who have penitently accepted him as their Savior, who trust in him for their safe transport to heaven when they shall come to die, and who now own him as the Lord of their lives?

Is it reasonable to believe that the man who defies God's commands all of his life, even up to the very hour of his death, who utterly rejects the only provision for salvation that God ever made, will finally pass into heaven and receive the same cordial welcome by God there as will the man who has heartily repented of his sins, who has been freely forgiven of them by God for Christ's sake, and who has repeatedly declared his allegiance to God, not only in word but in obedience, in sacrifice and devoted service? Oh, no! It is not reasonable. It is not reasonable that the man who will not insure his buildings against loss by fire will, in case that his buildings get burned down, have his loss made good by some insurance company, just the same as the man

who has had his buildings amply insured in season.

PRAYER MEETING TOPICS

"HAPPINESS OF THE WICKED"

Lesson, Psalm 37

I Some of Its Characteristics.

1. In this life only. Luke 16: 25; I Cor. 15: 19.
2. It is of short duration. Job 20: 5.
3. It is uncertain. Luke 12: 20.
4. It does not satisfy. Eccl. 2: 1.

II Its Source.

1. Worldly possessions. Job 21: 13.
2. Worldly power. Job 21: 7, 17, 20.
3. Praise of men. John 12: 43.
4. Drink. Isa. 5: 11.
5. Sensual pleasures. James 5: 5.

III Its Results.

1. Always brings sorrow. Prov. 14: 13; Gal. 6: 7, 8.
2. Always brings punishment. Rom. 6: 23.
3. Makes men reckless. Isa. 22: 13.

IV Remarks.

1. Here, "The end crowns all" and shows whether "Stolen waters are sweet."
2. This happiness is always a selfish sort which always has a sting to it.
3. The happiness of the sinner degrades; that of the Christian elevates and ennobles.

J. L. GILLIN.

The Mission Field

From the National Capital

It affords me much pleasure, indeed, to note the continued interest thru-out the brotherhood in behalf of the church home for the mission in this city, and yet April 1 will be here before we are ready for it unless there is a very decided change on the part of a great many. I notice that not a few are saying, "I will give so much provided the necessary amount can be raised," or "If so many others will do so and so."

Now, dear brethren, it is all right to proceed discreetly and cautiously in everything, but we have no time in this enterprise to say, "I will do so and so if hundreds and thousands of others will do so and so." That is a pretty sure way to get nothing done.

Had we acted on that principle as a congregation, and had Brother Cassel done the same as the representative of the National Mission Board, we would today be outside of a church home, and with a fine prospect of worshipping in a hall all the days of our lives. Brethren, let us have more faith in God and in each other. Instead of saying, "I will give so much if so many others will do so and so," just decide at once what the Lord would have you do and then *do it*. If you send the money on at once and we should not be able to meet the requirements on April 1, the money will be perfectly safe in Brother Cassel's hands, and can be refunded if necessary. But let us not put these "ifs" in when it comes to such transactions. They will prove disastrous to any enterprise, such as we now speak of. To those who may differ with me on this subject, I trust they will take no offense; should I be mistaken in my judgement in this matter, I am willing to be corrected. But I am sure that the Lord has opened this great opportunity for

us and we cannot fail, *must not fail*. To do so would be to bring everlasting shame and reproach upon the cause of Christ in the Capital City, so far as the Brethren church is concerned. But I dare not, *cannot possibly anticipate* anything of that kind. Let the fire of enthusiasm now burning so brightly on the altar of many hearts be multiplied greatly until every pastor and every congregation shall have responded to the call. Glad to see so many pastors leading off in this matter. After all, this and every other work, prospers or fails, just as the pastors determine to do.

I am still receiving many encouraging letters and I wish that I could reply to all, but find it impossible to do so for several reasons.

Would like to comment in EVANGELIST on many things written, but cannot even do that just now; and yet I must make mention of one letter which I appreciate very highly, indeed, because of the circumstances under which it was written. The writer, nearly 80 years of age and almost blind, and (to use his own language) "can't look at an object more than a minute without resting," etc. And this dear father in Israel has written me with his own hand quite a long letter, saying many encouraging things and telling me that he would see Brother Cassel in Philadelphia, about March 1, and would then pay to him his pledge of ten dollars, made a year or so since with the assurance that he would probably render more help later on, etc. And this writer is none other than our dear brother Abram H. Cassel, of Harleysville, Penna., who has been a friend to the cause here from the beginning and has several times rendered very great assistance. Thank God for such examples!

Brethren, I do wish that I could write all that comes to my mind as I think of the earlier experiences in the work in this city. I came here on October 4, 1892, under the direction of another church. About three months later I received official notice to the effect that the work must be abandoned because of the discouraging environments, and it was thought that it was too expensive (expenses about \$60 per month at that time.)

Of course, I protested with all my power against said movement, but without success, so at last I was forced to surrender on account of withdrawal of support and final notice to abandon the mission, etc. I shall never forget that awful humiliation experienced when at last I was compelled to pull down our "sign" on the hall where we had been worshipping. I was ashamed to go in the day time, so I waited until nearly midnight, during a terrible blizzard, (but there was something more terrible than a blizzard going on in my soul about that time), and with a hatchet under my arm I started out to take down the sign.

Well, I didn't retreat, even tho I had been forced to surrender. With wife and two children to support, a "stranger in a strange city," and no money, and seemingly, for